



Monkey Series



Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS



The *MONKEY SERIES* are picture books based on the ancient Chinese fantasy novel *Journey to the West*, a story rich in tales about demons and monsters who try to stop the Tang Priest Xuanzang from reaching the Thunder Monastery in India to fetch Buddhist scriptures. The real hero of this novel, loved for four hundred years by Chinese readers, is the resourceful, brave and humorous Monkey.

This series tells four stories:

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Monkey Series

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses

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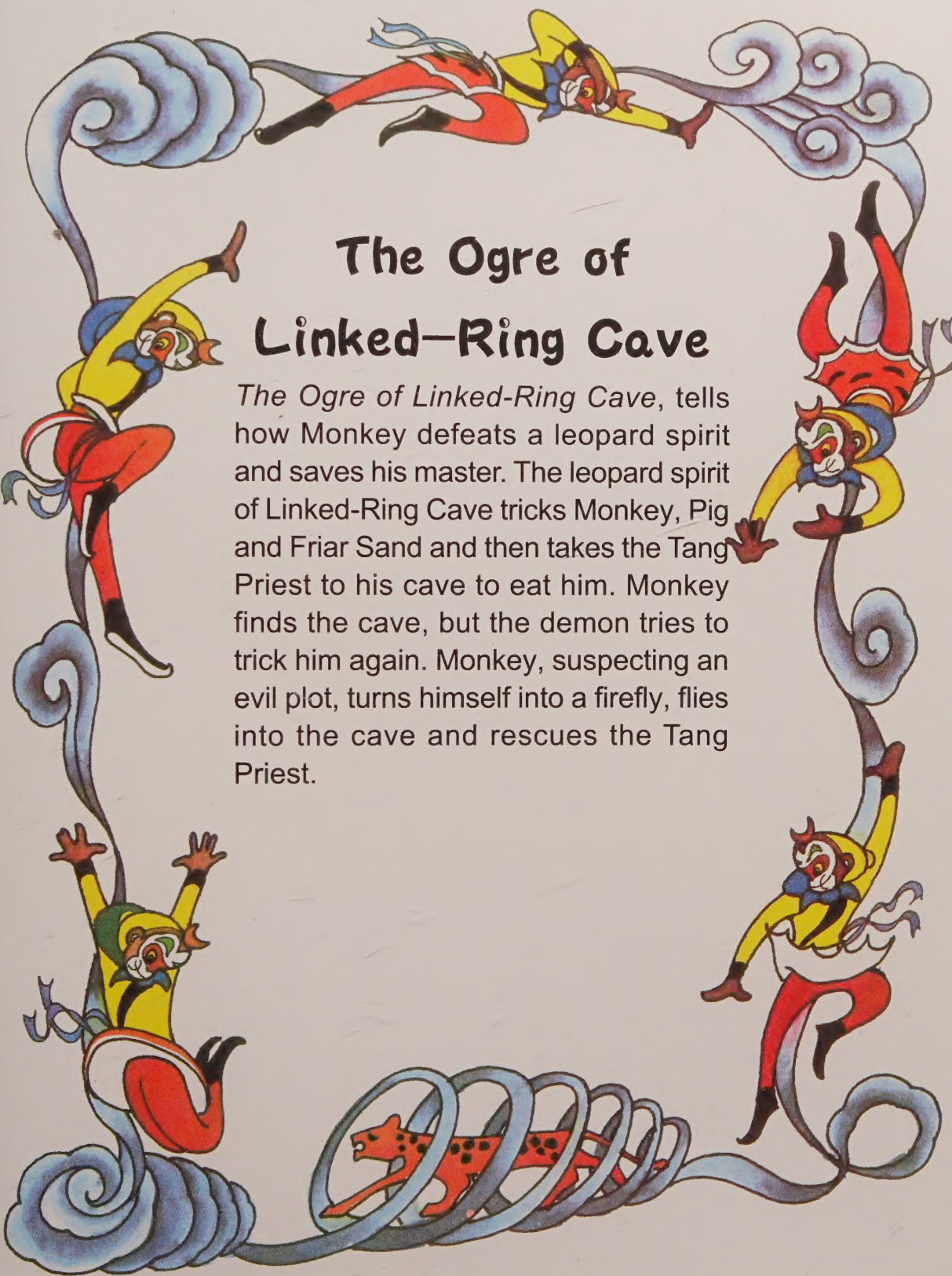
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The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave, tells how Monkey defeats a leopard spirit and saves his master. The leopard spirit of Linked-Ring Cave tricks Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand and then takes the Tang Priest to his cave to eat him. Monkey finds the cave, but the demon tries to trick him again. Monkey, suspecting an evil plot, turns himself into a firefly, flies into the cave and rescues the Tang Priest.



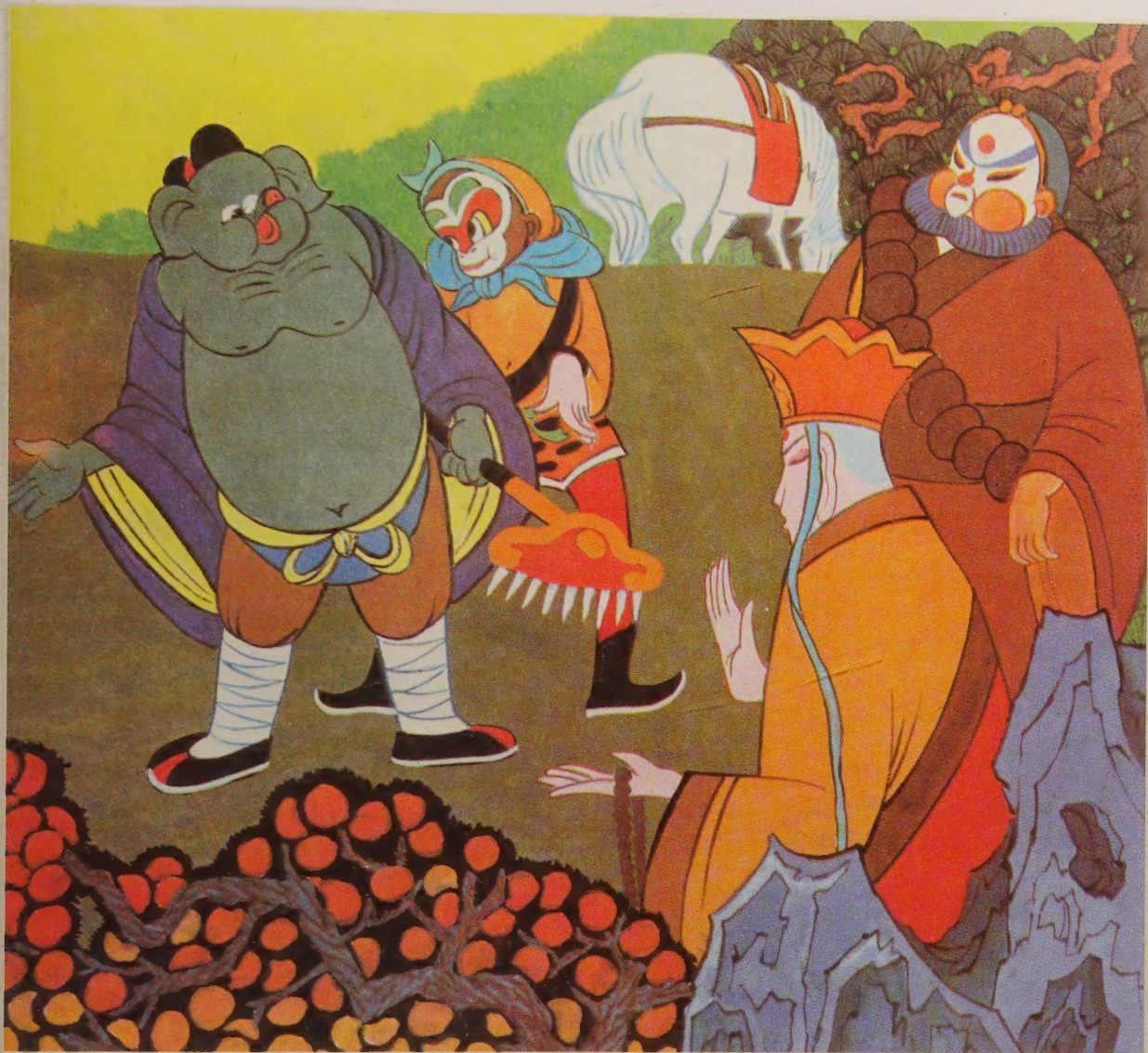
The Tang Priest and his disciples left the country that had no monks and went on their way to the West. One day they reached a high mountain. Suddenly a fierce wind began blowing and fog shut out the sky. The Tang Priest said in fright, "Do you think this mountain has demons?" Monkey replied, "Please get off your horse, Master, and wait while I take a look."



Monkey jumped into the air and, looking down, saw an old devil sitting on an overhanging cliff. On each side of him was a row of junior demons, blowing out fog and wind. Monkey at first thought he'd kill them, then he decided to let Pig take them on, one by one, and practise his skills.



When Monkey returned, the Tang Priest asked, "Are the wind and fog good or bad luck?" Monkey replied, "There's a village not far ahead where the people are so pious that they're steaming rice to feed monks. The fog must have been steam escaping from their steamers."



Pig's mouth began watering as soon as he heard that, so he went up to his master and said, "Why don't you all sit here while I fetch some tender grass to feed the horse, then we can push on with our journey." The master, delighted, said, "Seldom are you so hardworking as you are today! Be as quickly as you can." Pig made off at once.



The junior devils were waiting to trap any travellers. As soon as they saw Pig, they circled round him. Pig suddenly realized that he had been tricked by Monkey. He pulled his rake out from his belt and struck out wildly.



The senior devil jumped down from the cliff and shouted, "Where do you come from? What's your name?" Pig replied with a laugh, "So you don't recognize me! Come closer and you'll see!" So saying, he swung his rake at the senior demon.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



When the old devil saw it was the Tang Priest's disciple, he was delighted. "I've heard that the Tang Priest's flesh is very tasty. You've come at the right time." While the senior devil was talking, the junior devils and Pig fought furiously.



After a while, when Pig hadn't returned, Monkey began worrying. He pulled out a hair, blew on it and turned it into his double to stay with his master and Friar Sand. Then his real self leaped into the air to look for Pig.



Monkey looked down and saw that Pig was surrounded by devils. He shouted, "Don't be afraid, Pig! Monkey's here!" Recognizing Monkey's voice, Pig grew more ferocious than ever as he struck with his rake.



As soon as Monkey saw that the devils were getting beaten, he went straight back and put the hair back on his body. Before long Pig returned too, sweating all over. When the Tang Priest saw him, he asked, "Where is the grass for the horse?" Panting with rage, Pig replied, "Elder brother tricked me. I was almost eaten by the devils."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The Tang Priest asked, "What's all this about?" Monkey told him the truth. Then the Tang Priest said, "Monkey, keep out of mischief. Since the devils were driven away, let's hurry on with our journey." So they went on their way again.



The senior devil, unhappy at his failure, tried to think how he could get the flesh of the Tang Priest. A junior devil stepped forward and said, "I have a plan. Choose the three best junior devils and transform them into demon kings to draw the three disciples away. Then Your Majesty will be able to catch the Tang Priest."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



This suggestion delighted the old devil, who said, "What a brilliant plan!" Then he selected three capable junior devils and turned them into senior devils. With iron maces in their hands they waited for the Tang Priest.



As the Tang Priest and his disciples were going along, suddenly they saw an old devil leap out from the side of the road and rush straight at the Tang Priest. "The evil spirit's here, Pig," Monkey shouted. "Get him!" Pig hacked wildly at the devil with his rake.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



While the battle between the two raged back and forth on the mountainside, there was a noise in the underbrush as another monster sprang out and charged at the Tang Priest. Monkey, surprised, thought, "Pig, how could you let the monster escape!" He raised his cudgel to fight the monster, and immediately the devil countered the attack with his mace. While they were fighting, the monster led Monkey to the south side of the mountain.



A third devil sprang out as Friar Sand and his master were going ahead. Friar Sand exclaimed in alarm, "What are big brother and second brother doing? They've both let the devil get away." Brandishing his staff, he blocked the devil's iron mace and started a bitter fight. After several rounds the evil spirit drew Friar Sand to the north side of the mountain.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



While the Tang Priest was sitting on his horse worrying, he heard a wild laugh. "Tang Priest, you have fallen into my trap! Let me eat your flesh, quickly!" Without realizing what was happening, the Tang Priest was seized by the devil.



The old devil took the Tang Priest into a cave and called for the junior devil who had thought up the plan. "Your brilliant plan has succeeded, so I make you a vanguard. Bring the Tang Priest here and tell the junior devils to fetch water, scrub the cooking pot, gather firewood and light the fire. When he's been cooked, you and I will each have a piece of his flesh and live forever." "Your Majesty," the vanguard replied, "he mustn't be eaten yet."



"Why not?" the senior demon asked. The vanguard said, "If Monkey found out we'd eaten the Tang Priest, he'd thrust that gold-banded cudgel of his into the mountainside and make a hole so big that the whole mountain would collapse. We'd be homeless. In my opinion, we should put the Tang Priest in the back garden until we're sure the three disciples have gone home. Then we can enjoy him at our leisure." "You're right," the old demon said with a laugh.



The Tang Priest was taken into the back garden and tied to a tree. Tears rolled down his cheeks as he called out, "Disciples, where did you chase those demons in the mountains? I have been captured by a wicked ogre. When will I ever see you again?"

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



After fighting off the devil, Monkey rushed back to the road, but his master and Friar Sand had disappeared. Greatly worried, he saw Pig coming, so he asked him anxiously, "Have you seen our master?" "I expect Friar Sand has taken him somewhere," said Pig with a grin.



Just at that moment Friar Sand turned up. "Where's our master?" Monkey asked. Friar Sand retorted, "You two let the demon escape and come back for our master. When I went to fight the demon, he was left on the horse by himself." At this Monkey leaped with rage, shouting, "We were fooled! Our master was seized by the devil."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



Monkey asked Friar Sand to keep an eye on the horse and baggage while he and Pig went to look for their master on the mountain. They discovered a cave at the foot of an overhanging precipice. The gate of the cave was shut tight and above it a horizontal stone tablet said, in large letters, Linked-Ring Cave.



"Strike, Pig!" said Monkey. "This is where the evil spirit lives. The master must be here." At this Pig raised his rake and brought it down on the gate with all his strength, smashing a big hole in it. He shouted, "Ogre, send my master out at once if you don't want me to finish off the whole lot of you."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



At this the junior devils at the gate rushed back inside to report. The vanguard ran to the gate and through the hole smashed in it saw someone with a long snout and big ears. He turned around and shouted at the top of his voice, "Don't worry, Your Majesty! It's just Pig. He wouldn't dare try and nonsense with us. The only one to worry about is that hairy-cheeked monk with a face like a thunder god."



"Brother," said Pig when he heard this, "he's not scared of me, but he is of you. Come here, quickly!" "Evil spirit," said Monkey abusively, "send my master out and I'll spare your life."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The vanguard reported, "This is terrible, Your Majesty. Monkey is here too." At this the old demon started complaining. "It's all because of your great idea! You've brought disaster upon us."



Just then a junior devil came forward and said, "Don't start grumbling yet. Though Monkey has tremendous magic power, we can fool him by showing him a false human head and telling him we've eaten his master already." "But where are we to get a false human head?" the old demon asked. "I'll see if I can make one," the junior devil replied.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The junior devil made a human head out of a willow root and took in to the gate, calling, "My Lord, Great Sage, please overcome your anger and allow me to address you. When my king took your master into the cave, the junior devils were naughty and behaved very badly. They ate your master up, all except his head, which I have here."



Monkey, grabbing hold of Pig, replied, "If you've eaten him up, that's that. Bring the head out." Then a head was thrown through the hole in the gate.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



Pig, seeing the head, started crying. "Idiot," said Monkey, "take a look and find out if it's real before you start crying." Pig said, "How could there ever be a fake human head?" "When you throw a real human head, it lands softly, but when you throw a fake one, it makes a loud noise like a pair of wooden clappers," Monkey explained. Then he struck the head with his cudgel.



As soon as Pig realized it was a piece of willow root, he started talking abusively. "You have hidden my master in your cave and fooled me with a piece of willow root."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The old demon was terrified when he heard that the false head had been found out. The vanguard said, "Don't be frightened, Your Majesty. This time we can give them a real human head we haven't eaten yet. We can gnaw all the skin off the face until it is unrecognizable and carry the head out. They might go away." The old demon said, "Do it quickly!"



Then a junior devil got a real human head ready and carried it out. He said, "My Lord, Great Sage, it was a fake head last time, but this really is your master's head." He then threw the head through the hole in the gate.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The three disciples buried the head and piled a grave mound over it. They wept bitterly. Only then did Monkey remember that his master was a monk with a bald head, so why was there long hair on that head? It must have been fake too. Monkey said to Pig and Friar Sand, "You two weep over him while I go into the cave to avenge our master."



Monkey rushed to the gate, then turned into a firefly. As soon as he flew into the cave, he heard a junior devil say, "They were taken in and are weeping. Your Majesty can eat the flesh of the Tang Priest when they go away."



Monkey was secretly pleased when he heard this. "Our master is still alive. I should go to see him first, then come back to settle with these devils." He flew to the back garden and saw the Tang Priest tied to a tree. Monkey went up to the Tang Priest and called, "Master!" When the Tang Priest recognized Monkey, he said, "Save me as quickly as you can." Monkey replied, "Master, just stick it out a little longer until I've beaten the evil spirit, then I'll be able to rescue you."



Monkey flew back into the hall, pulled out a handful of hairs and blew on them, turning them into sleep insects. He threw these into the faces of all the devils and gradually the devils began to feel sleepy. Before long the junior devils were all fast asleep.

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



The old devil was the only one left awake. Monkey pulled out a hair, made a big sleep insect and threw it into the devil's nose. The old devil fell asleep at once, snoring heavily.



Then Monkey turned back into himself and produced his cudgel from his ear. He lifted his cudgel and was about to strike when he thought, "No, this is wrong. I ought to release our master before I kill the evil spirit."



Monkey went back to the garden, untied his master and helped him walk away. Just then the Tang Priest said, "There is a woodcutter who was captured and brought here. You must save him too." Monkey untied the woodcutter and took them both out.



They bade farewell to the woodcutter and then saw Pig and Friar Sand still weeping. Monkey shouted at the top of his voice, "What are you weeping for? Our master has come back!" When Friar Sand looked up and saw the Tang Priest, he fell to his knees in front of him and said, "Master, you've suffered terribly!"

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave



Seeing this, Pig couldn't help knocking the grave mound over with one blow of his rake. The Tang Priest said, "Why are you hitting it? It was thanks to him that I'm still alive. Otherwise they would have killed me. I think we should bury him properly as a mark of our monastic respect." When Pig heard his master, he put his rake away.



Monkey went back into the cave and tied the arms and legs of the old demon together. Then he carried him out on a shoulder pole. As soon as Pig saw the demon, he raised his rake and was just about to hit him when Monkey said, "Wait a moment! We haven't captured the junior devils in the cave yet. You go find some firewood and wipe them out."

The Ogre of Linked-Ring Cave

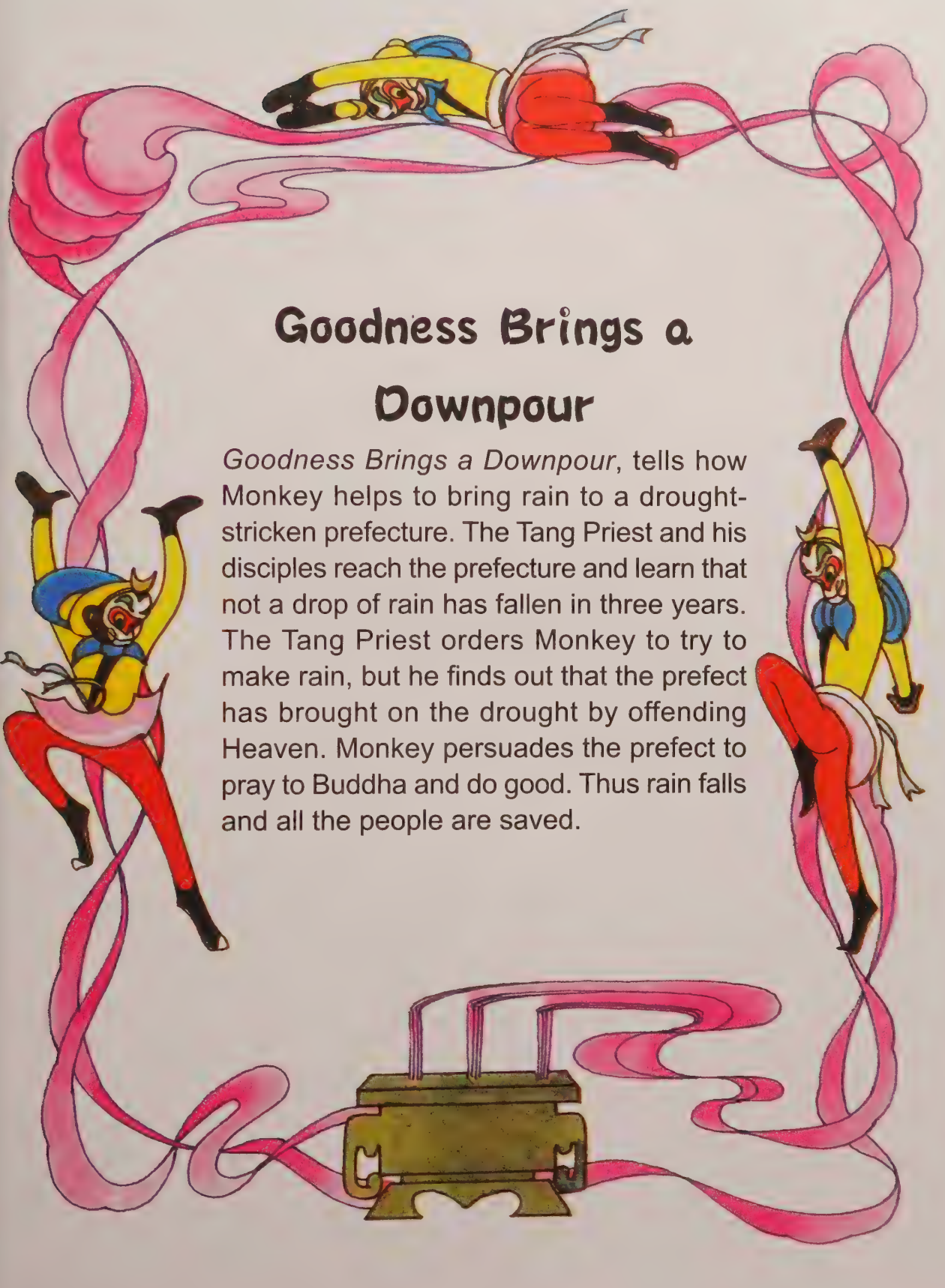


Pig hurriedly gathered some firewood and carried it to the entrance of the cave, where Monkey lit it. Monkey shook himself and put the sleep-insect hairs back. Pig fanned the flames with both his ears. Soon the whole cave was burnt right out.



It turned out that the old demon was a leopard spirit. Pig killed him with one blow of his rake. Since the ogre was dead, master and disciples headed west again.





Goodness Brings a Downpour

Goodness Brings a Downpour, tells how Monkey helps to bring rain to a drought-stricken prefecture. The Tang Priest and his disciples reach the prefecture and learn that not a drop of rain has fallen in three years. The Tang Priest orders Monkey to try to make rain, but he finds out that the prefect has brought on the drought by offending Heaven. Monkey persuades the prefect to pray to Buddha and do good. Thus rain falls and all the people are saved.



The last story told how the Leopard Demon in the Linked-Ring Cave tried to catch the Tang Priest. After Monkey rescued his master, the Tang Priest and his three disciples went on their way to the West. One day they suddenly saw a city wall and moat in the distance. "Monkey," said the Tang Priest, "is that city ahead of us India?"



"No, no," said Monkey, shaking his head. "That city is probably one of the outer prefectures of India."



Soon they were outside the city. As they went through the gate, they found the streets bleak and desolate and the people all looking worried.



Pig went ahead, raising his snout and shouting, "Out of the way! Out of the way!" People on the street looked up with a start, and when they saw what he looked like, they all shouted, "Evil spirits! Evil spirits!"



An official came up to them and asked, "Where are you from?" The Tang Priest, afraid his disciples would cause trouble, pushed himself forward and said, "I am a monk sent to fetch the scriptures from the Thunder Monastery in India. Our journey brings us to this distinguished place. We shall be very grateful to you for taking care of us."



Only then did the official return his courtesy and say, "This is the prefecture of Fengxian, one of the outer prefectures of India. Because we have been suffering from drought for years on end, the prefect has sent us to put up a notice here calling for masters of the dharma to pray for rain and save the people."



"Bring the notice here and show me," said Monkey when he heard this. The officials then unrolled the notice and hung it up under the eaves. Monkey and his master went up to read it, and this is what it said: "Fengxian Prefecture has been afflicted with drought for a long time. The common people cannot survive. If someone will pray for rain to save the people, he will be richly rewarded for his kindness with a thousand pieces of silver."



When the Tang Priest read it, he asked, "Disciples, if any of you know how to pray for rain, do the people a good turn." Monkey laughed and said, "I can turn rivers upside down, stir up the sea, breathe out mist and clouds, carry mountains, drive the moon along — anything. What's so difficult about praying for rain?"



When the officials heard that Monkey could pray for rain, they immediately sent someone to report to the prefect. "Your Excellency, something very splendid has happened." The prefect, who was burning incense and praying silently at the time, asked what it was. The official told him what had happened.



The prefect went straight to where the Tang Priest was, bowed and said, "I am the prefect of Fengxian Prefecture. I beg you in your great mercy to use your divine powers to save the people."



The Tang Priest said, "This is no place to talk. Let's go to a temple to discuss matters." Master and disciples then led the horse and carried the baggage to the official residence, where they all exchanged greetings and the prefect ordered tea and vegetarian food.



When the meal was over, the prefect said, "For three years we have suffered from drought. If you are able to pray for rain to save the people, you will be rewarded with a thousand pieces of silver." When Monkey heard this, he chuckled. "If you promise us a reward of a thousand pieces of silver, you won't get a single drop of rain. But if you say we'll gain merit, I'll provide plenty of rain."



When the prefect, a thoroughly upright and good man, who cared deeply for his people, heard that Monkey was willing to pray for rain for the people, he bowed to him and expressed his thanks. "Please get up," said Monkey. "If you look after my master well, I shall do the job at once."



Monkey asked Pig and Friar Sand to go with him, and the three went outside. The prefect hurriedly burned incense and prayed. The Tang Priest sat there reciting sutras.



Outside, Pig and Friar Sand stood on each side as Monkey recited a spell and said magic words. A dark cloud appeared in the east and slowly moved towards them.



The cloud gradually turned into a dragon king and said, "Why have you sent for me, Great Sage?" Monkey leapt into the air and said, "There has been a drought in this prefecture for years on end. Couldn't you send some rain?" "I would never dare make rain without the Jade Emperor's consent," the dragon king replied.



"Our journey brought us here and we saw how hard the people had suffered. I asked you specially to come here to make rain and save the people," said Monkey. "Why are you trying to get out of it?" The dragon king said, "I'd never dare try to get out of it. If you, Great Sage, sincerely wish rain, you must go to the Heavenly Palace to obtain an edict from the Jade Emperor so that I can make rain in the amount ordered."



Accepting his argument, Monkey let him go back to the sea. Then Monkey went back into the mansion and told the Tang Priest what the dragon king had said. "In that case you had better go, since you promised," the Tang Priest said.



Monkey, telling Pig and Friar Sand to look after their master while he went up to the Heavenly Palace, leapt straight up to go to the palace.



In the twinkling of an eye he was outside the Western Gate of Heaven, where the heavenly king greeted him and asked, "What are you here for, Great Sage?" Monkey replied, "On the way to fetch the scriptures we reached Fengxian Prefecture. It hasn't rained for a long time, so I've come to ask the Jade Emperor for an edict to permit the dragon kings to make rain."



The heavenly king said, "That prefect offended Heaven. The Jade Emperor had a rice mountain, a flour mountain and a huge gold lock set up in order to punish him." Not understanding what it was all about, Monkey insisted on seeing the Jade Emperor, and the heavenly king had to let him in.



Going straight to the Hall of Universal Brightness, Monkey was met by four heavenly teachers, who asked, "What are you here for, Great Sage?" Monkey said again that he had come to ask for rain. The four heavenly teachers to explain the hows and whys, but Monkey cut them short and said, "Don't talk so much. Please take me to see the Jade Emperor."



The four heavenly teachers took Monkey to the Hall of Miraculous Mist, where they reported, "Your Majesty, Monkey has reached Fengxian Prefecture and wants to ask for rain. He has come for an edict."



"Three years ago," the Jade Emperor replied, "I went to inspect Fengxian Prefecture. I saw that the prefect had knocked over the offerings to Heaven to feed to the dogs, and he spoke dirty words, offending Heaven. That is why I had three things set up in the Hall of Fragrance. If those three things haven't been accomplished, I absolutely won't grant rain."



The four heavenly teachers took Monkey to the Hall of Fragrance. The hall was very large and high, and there were two mountains in front of it. One was a mountain of rice about a hundred feet high, a chicken was eating the rice. The other was a mountain of flour about two hundred feet high, a little dog was licking the flour.



Monkey went around the two mountains and saw an iron frame with a great golden padlock hanging in the middle. Under it a lamp was heating the lock.



The heavenly teachers said to Monkey, "That place will not have rain until the chicken has eaten all the rice, the dog has licked up all the flour, and the lamp has melted the bar of the lock."



When Monkey heard this, he went pale with shock, and he dared make no more requests of the Jade Emperor. He left the hall in a huff.



The four heavenly teachers advised Monkey, "If the prefect does good deeds and his behaviour moves Heaven, the three things will be accomplished. Go back at once to persuade the prefect to return to goodness, then blessings will come of themselves."



After hearing this, Monkey took leave of the four heavenly teachers, mounted the somersault cloud and returned to Fengxian Prefecture.



When the prefect, the Tang Priest, Pig, Friar Sand and all the officials, high and low, saw Monkey returning, they crowded round him to ask about the request for rain.



Monkey pointed at the prefect and shouted, "It's all because three years ago you knocked the offerings to Heaven over to feed dogs. Your behaviour offended the heavenly court. That's why rain wasn't sent and the people suffered."



The prefect was so alarmed that he dared not conceal anything. He said hurriedly, "One day three years ago I quarrelled with my wife. Because she said bad things to me, in an outburst of fury I knocked over the table with the offerings, scattering the food, and called the dogs to eat it up. For the last couple of years it has been preying on my mind."



Monkey told him that that day the Jade Emperor happened to be visiting the lower world and saw how disrespectful the prefect was, so he had the three things set up. Pig interrupted and said, "Brother Monkey, if you take me with you, I can eat the mountains of rice and flour and snap the bar of the lock. I can guarantee rain." The Tang Priest exclaimed, "This is a plan made by Heaven. Don't fool with it!"



"It's not difficult to bring rain," Monkey said. "As I was leaving, the four heavenly teachers said this could be accomplished if the prefect prayed to the Buddha, recited scriptures, and did much good to atone for his crime before it was too late." The prefect heard the teachings and kowtowed in worship.



At once the prefect summoned all the Buddhist and Taoist priests in the city and ordered that a site be prepared for religious ceremonies. He ordered all men and women, young and old, in the city to burn incense sticks and pray to Buddha. From that moment on all ears were filled with virtuous sounds.



When Monkey saw this, he was very happy. "You two look after our master," he said to Pig and Friar Sand. "I'm going back to submit another request for rain to the Jade Emperor." He set off on his cloud and went straight to the Heavenly Palace.



When Monkey reached the Western Gate of Heaven and was about to go in, the heavenly king in charge of the Hall of Fragrance appeared and, greeting him, said, "The rice and flour mountains have collapsed, and the bar of the lock has also been broken. I have reported the matter to the Jade Emperor. Great Sage, there's no need for you to go to see the Jade Emperor. You should go to borrow some thunder generals."



Monkey accepted this suggestion and went straight to the Office of First Request in the Ninth Heaven. Paying his respects to the thunder gods, he said, "Because I saw the people in Fengxian Prefecture had long been suffering from drought, I asked the Jade Emperor especially for rain. The Jade Emperor can now make rain, so I have come to ask for the help of the thunder generals."



The thunder generals took their orders. Before long they had reached the sky over Fengxian Prefecture and started performing their magic. In a twinkling the thunder boomed and the lightning flashed; rivers and mountains shook.



Inside or outside the city of Fengxian nobody heard the sound of thunder for three whole years. Now that the thunder was booming and the lightning flashing they all fell to their knees and kowtowed again and again, saying, "Amitabha." In an instant the good sounds soared to the skies.



When the Jade Emperor was told that the rice and flour mountains had collapsed and the bar of the lock had been broken and he heard the good sounds coming from the world of mortals, he felt very pleased, so he issued an edict ordering the departments of wind, cloud and rain and dragon kings to make rain.



The heavenly gods went to Fengxian Prefecture and joined the thunder generals. Instantly the wind came up and clouds gathered, thunder boomed and lightning flashed; the sweet rain began to pour down.



It rained a whole day. The heavenly gods began to get ready to leave, but Monkey said, "Wait a moment until I tell the prefect to bow to you and express his thanks." Then he took his cloud down to earth and landed in front of the city.

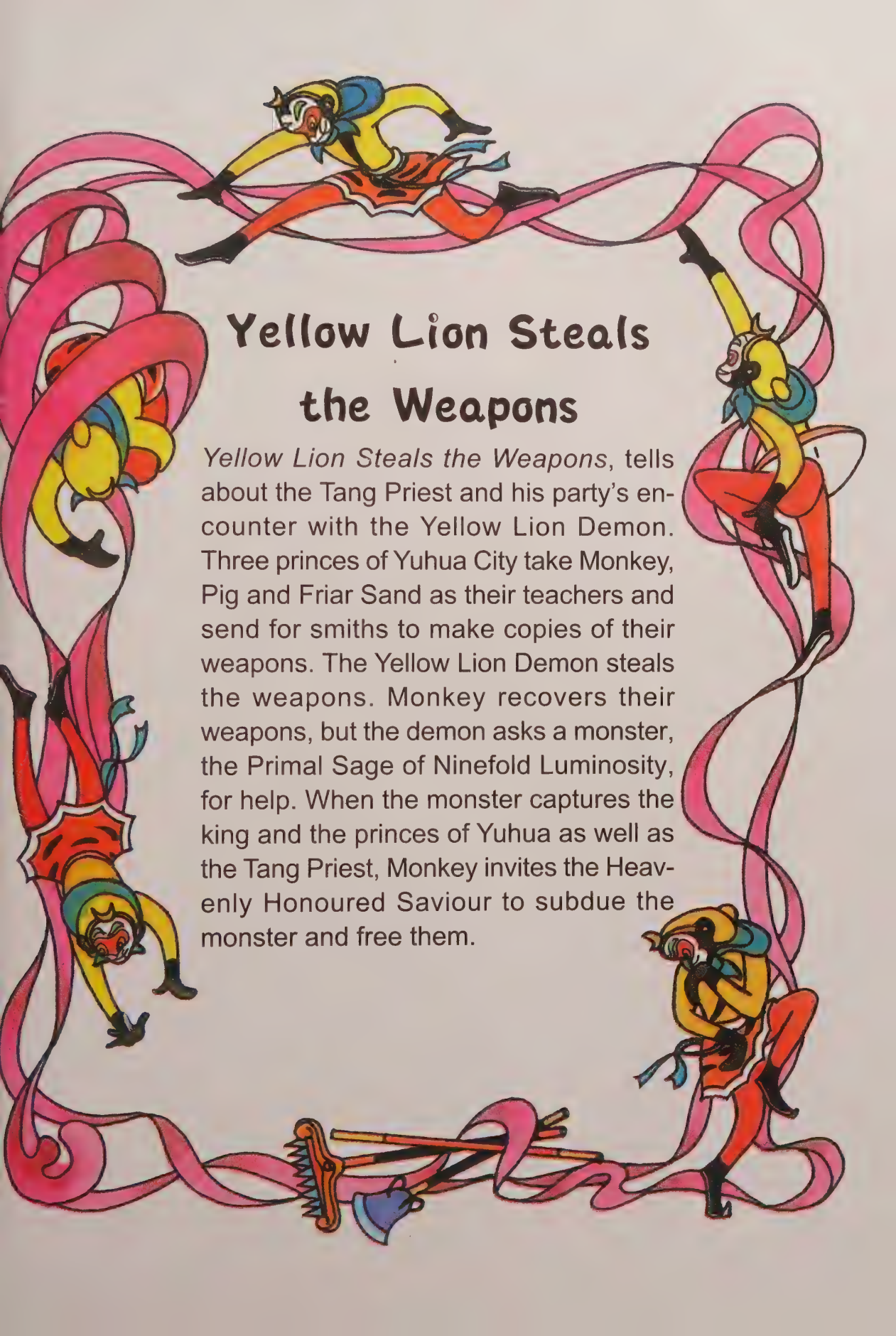


The prefect, officials and common people all greeted him. "Stop thanking me," said Monkey. "You should order everyone in the city to give thanks to the heavenly gods."



The prefect issued urgent orders, summoning people to kowtow with incense sticks in their hands to give thanks to the heavenly gods. The Tang Priest and his disciples left Fengxian Prefecture joyfully and continued their journey to the West to fetch the Buddhist scriptures.



A yellow lion demon with a blue collar and red pants is depicted in four different poses around a central text block. The poses are connected by long, flowing pink ribbons that form a decorative border. At the bottom center, a collection of weapons, including a staff, a sword, and a bell, is shown.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons, tells about the Tang Priest and his party's encounter with the Yellow Lion Demon. Three princes of Yuhua City take Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand as their teachers and send for smiths to make copies of their weapons. The Yellow Lion Demon steals the weapons. Monkey recovers their weapons, but the demon asks a monster, the Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity, for help. When the monster captures the king and the princes of Yuhua as well as the Tang Priest, Monkey invites the Heavenly Honoured Saviour to subdue the monster and free them.



A few days after the Tang Priest and his three disciples had left Fengxian Prefecture, they arrived in Yuhua City. The Tang Priest went to the imperial palace to change his passport, and the king ordered his kitchens to prepare a vegetarian meal for him. The Tang Priest said immediately, "I must inform Your Royal Highness that I have three disciples waiting in the guesthouse. I cannot delay our journey by accepting a meal."



The king then ordered his aides to invite the venerable elder's three disciples to the palace. The aides went to the guesthouse and shouted, "Which are the disciples of the monk from Great Tang? Our Royal Highness has invited them to a meal." As soon as Pig heard the word *meal*, he could not help jumping up and saying, "We are! We are!" At the sight of Pig the palace aides fell back in fright.



Monkey and the other two followed the officials into the palace. When the king saw how ugly they were, he too was frightened. "Do not be alarmed, Your Royal Highness," said the Tang Priest. "Although my humble disciples are ugly, they have good hearts." He then thanked the king and went together with his disciples for the meal.



When the king withdrew from the palace hall to his living quarters, his three sons noticed his pallor and asked, "What happened, Father?" The king replied, "Today I invited a monk from the Great Tang to take a meal. He had three disciples who were all as ugly as demons." After hearing this, the three young princes shouted, "They must be evil spirits from the mountains, disguised as humans. Wait while we take a look at them."



Carrying their weapons, the three charged straight into the dining hall, shouting, "Are you men or monsters? Tell us at once and we'll spare your lives!" This gave the Tang Priest such a fright that he turned pale. Monkey and Friar Sand bowed and explained, while Pig, throwing down his bowl, yelled, "Do you want a fight?"



The second prince strode forward, wielding his rake in both hands, to strike at Pig, which made him say with a chuckle, "That rake of yours is fit only to be the grandson of mine." With that he stripped down, pulled his own rake out from his belt and swung it, making it twelve or thirteen feet long. The second prince was so terrified that his hands went weak and his muscles turned numb.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



When Monkey saw that the oldest of the young princes was leaping about with a rod, he took his gold-banded cudgel out from his ear and shook it to make it as thick as a bowl and twelve or thirteen feet long. Ramming it into the ground, he said with a smile, "I'm giving you this cudgel."



As soon as the prince heard this, he threw his rod down and went to take the cudgel, but though he pulled with all his strength, it was as if it had taken root.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



At this the third prince started acting wild, attacking with his black-painted cudgel. Friar Sand dodged the blow with his demon-quelling staff and the black-painted cudgel flew away.



The three princes all knelt down and kowtowed, saying, "Divine teachers, divine teachers, we mortals failed to recognize you. Please show us your powers."



Monkey effortlessly picked up his cudgel and said, "It's too cramped here for me to do my stuff. I'll leap into the air to give you something to see."



Splendid Monkey somersaulted up into midair, then performed Flower-Scattering Canopy and Twisting Dragon with his gold-banded cudgel, moving up and down, spinning to left and right, until the whole sky was filled with the whirling cudgel.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Pig could not keep still, and with a great shout of “I’m going to have a bit of fun too!” he rode a breeze into the air and started swinging his rake — three times up, four times down, five times to the left, six times to the right, seven times forward and eight times backward, running through all the movements he knew and filling the air with a noise like a howling gale.



Just when he had warmed up, Friar Sand sprang into the air with both feet. Wielding his demon-quelling staff, he performed a Hungry Tiger Seizing Its Prey. He did his utmost to put on a show too. The three disciples all gave a most imposing display of their magic powers.



Soon they brought their auspicious clouds down to earth, and when the Yuhua king heard the news, he came immediately. He asked the three disciples to teach his three sons some of their skills. Monkey and the other two agreed.



The king and his three sons were delighted. The king ordered a great banquet in the main hall of the palace. During dinner the three young princes borrowed the three weapons from their honoured teachers and sent for smiths to make copies of them.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



The next day the three princes bought ten thousand pounds of iron and steel and set up a forge in the front yard of the imperial palace. The smiths began to cast the weapons.



These weapons were treasures, sending out a glow and auspicious vapours during the night. One night the Yellow Lion Demon, who lived on Mount Leopard Head, noticed the glow and the auspicious vapours as he was passing Yuhua. Creating a mighty wind, he scooped up all three weapons and took them back to his cave.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Next morning, when the smiths got up at dawn, they found that the three weapons had disappeared. They hurried to inform the three princes, who looked for them everywhere but could not find them. The whole palace was in chaos — everyone was searching for the weapons, but there was no sign of them anywhere. Pig said, "You smiths must have stolen them." The smiths kowtowed desperately and cried for justice.



Monkey asked the king, "Your Royal Highness, are there any evil monsters in the mountains and forests around the city?" "That's a very good question," the king replied. "There is a mountain north twenty miles from the city, called Mount Leopard Head, with a Tiger-Mouth Cave in it. People often say evil spirits live there, but I've never seen them."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Monkey asked Pig and Friar Sand to guard their master, while he himself whistled up into the air. Soon he was on Mount Leopard Head. As he climbed to the summit to look around, he saw a couple of wolf-headed demons climbing up and talking loudly.



"I'm going to listen to what they have to say." Monkey shook himself, turned into a butterfly and flew to a spot right above the demons' heads, where he could listen. It turned out that their chief had stolen the weapons the night before. The next day there was going to be a Rake Banquet to celebrate, so they were on their way to buy pigs and sheep.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Instantly Monkey turned back into himself, recited a spell and fixed the two wolf-headed demons to the spot. He undid their clothes and searched them, finding twenty ounces of silver in a purse. Each of them was also carrying a white-lacquered pass. One said "Wily Freak" and the other, "Freaky Wile".



Taking their silver and their passes, Monkey went straight back to the city, where he told what had happened. Monkey said, "Pig, you turn yourself into Wily Freak, I'll turn into Freaky Wile, and Friar Sand can be a trader selling pigs and sheep. We'll go into the Tiger-Mouth Cave, grab our weapons and kill all the monsters." Everyone thought it was a good idea.



The three drove pigs and sheep along the path towards the mountain. Before long they were in a mountain gully, where they met another junior devil. Without suspecting anything, the devil greeted Monkey and the other two warmly.



The devil was on his way to invite the Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity to the celebration banquet. After reading the invitation, Monkey knew that the chief in the Tiger-Mouth Cave was called Yellow Lion. Monkey returned the invitation and the devil went away.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



As they neared the mouth of the cave a crowd of evil spirits of every age and kind came out to meet them. When the demon king heard all the noise, he came out too and asked about the purchase of pigs and sheep. He was told that the dealer wanted to have a look at the weapons, so he said, "You are welcome to look, but don't tell anyone about them."



The three disciples went inside. On an offering table they saw the three weapons, the nine-toothed iron rake in the middle, the gold-banded cudgel on one side and the demon-quelling staff on the other.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



When Pig saw his rake, he charged over, pulled it down and swung it around as he turned back into original form. He struck straight at the demon's face. Monkey and Friar Sand rushed to the table, grabbed their weapons, turned back into themselves and went to help Pig.



The Yellow Lion Demon used his shovel to ward off the three weapons and shouted at the top of his voice, "Who do you think you are, tricking me out of my treasures by impersonation?"



Monkey shouted back, "I'm a disciple of Xuanzang, the holy monk from the East. We came here to catch you, you thief." The demon shouted at Friar Sand, "Watch out!" as Friar Sand fell back to dodge the blow, the demon escaped through the opening and fled to the southeast.



Monkey let him go. Then the three went back to the entrance of the cave, where they killed all the evil spirits, great and small, burned the cave and returned to Yuhua. Monkey told the king everything, then said, "Don't worry, Your Royal Highness. If the demon seeks revenge, we'll definitely come to your aid."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



The Yellow Lion Demon headed southeast to the Bamboo Mountain and reached the Nine-Bend Cave, where the demon's grandfather, the Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity, lived. In tears, he told his grandfather what had happened.



The Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity had been about to leave for the Rake Banquet when his grandson arrived. Startled, he said, "Worthy grandson, you made a big mistake provoking them. The monkey has tremendous magic powers. When he made havoc in Heaven five hundred years ago, a hundred thousand heavenly troops couldn't catch him. Never mind. I'll go with you and capture him to avenge you."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



The senior demon immediately mustered his grandsons, each carrying a sharp weapon. With the Yellow Lion Demon leading the way, each set off a powerful gale that carried him straight to Yuhua.



When the king of Yuhua heard the roaring wind, he was deeply alarmed and told Monkey, "A crowd of evil spirits is coming. How terrible!" Monkey replied with a smile, "Stop worrying. We brothers are going out to meet them."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Pig went first and shouted abusively, "Thieves! Treasure stealers! What did you come here for?" The Yellow Lion Demon retorted in fury, "You pig monk! You burned my cave palace and murdered my family. I'll make you pay for this."



The Yellow Lion Demon threw his shovel at Pig. Pig raised his rake to parry the blow. Neither was getting anywhere.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



At this, the Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity nodded, and all the lion spirits went after Pig. Seeing this, Monkey and Friar Sand took up their weapons and rushed to Pig's aid. It was a splendid fight.



They fought for half a day. Night fell. Pig was now dribbling and his legs were buckling. The Yellow Lion Demon knocked him down and two lion spirits grabbed him and tied him up.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Monkey pulled out a handful of hairs, blew on them, shouted "Change!" and turned them into a hundred or so little monkeys, who captured two evil spirits. The other devils retreated.



They stopped fighting for the night. Early next morning the old demon sent for the Yellow Lion Demon to devise a plan of action. "You must all use your wits to capture Monkey and Friar Sand while I go into the city to capture their master, the old king and his sons."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



Accepting this plan, the Yellow Lion Demon took the evil spirits back to the city wall, crying out for battle amid wind and fog. On the other side Monkey and Friar Sand jumped onto the wall, Monkey yelling abusively at the top of his voice, "Thieving damned demons! Give me back my brother Pig this moment! If you don't, I'll smash your bones to powder and chop you all into little pieces." They began to fight each other.



While the lion spirits were fighting hard with Monkey and Friar Sand, the old demon flew on a cloud straight to the city. He opened his nine mouths, taking the Tang Priest, the king and his sons in one by one.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



As soon as Monkey saw the black cloud over the city he realized he had fallen for a trick. He quickly pulled out a handful of hairs, shouted "Change!" and turned them into a thousand little monkeys, who swarmed to attack. They captured all the evil spirits and returned to the city.



When the queen saw Monkey, she sobbed, saying, "Holy teachers. Just now the Primal Sage of Ninefold Luminosity took away His Royal Highness, our sons and your master. I don't know whether they are alive or not." Monkey bowed and said, "Don't upset yourself, Your Majesty. My brother and I will bring them back."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



So saying, Monkey took Friar Sand up on an auspicious cloud. Soon they arrived at the Nine-Bend Cave, where they stepped forward and yelled abusively, "You damned devils! Give back our master quickly, or there'll be nothing for you but death!"



The senior demon threw the gates of the cave wide open. When he saw his grandsons, the Yellow Lion Demon and the others had not come back, he went straight for Monkey, not bothering to answer. Monkey and Friar Sand raised their weapons to stop him.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



The demon shook his head and his eight other heads all opened their mouths and gently picked up Monkey and Friar Sand. The demon ordered the evil spirits to bring ropes to tie the two up.



Then they went back into the cave. "Little ones, get some thorns and willow rods and beat this ape for me to avenge my grandson," said the senior demon. Monkey's body had been so toughened that all the rods could do was to scratch his itches.

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



During the night Monkey used escape magic to shrink himself, took the cudgel out of his ear and shook it till it was as thick as a well bucket. One gentle push from the cudgel turned the few sleeping devils into minced meat.



Monkey then released Friar Sand. Pig, who was feeling desperate about being tied up, could not help yelling loudly, "My hands and feet are tied so tight they're swollen. Brother, why don't you come and free me?"



Pig's shout woke up the old demon, who jumped to his feet and called out, "Who's setting them free?" The moment Monkey heard this, he smashed his way through several sets of doors with his cudgel and fled, not bothering about Friar Sand and the rest of them.



Monkey rode by auspicious cloud straight back to the city of Yuhua, where all the local deities and spirits as well as the god of the city were kneeling to greet him. "Why have you waited until today to come to see me?" Monkey asked. "When we learned that the worthy king was entertaining you in Yuhua, we did not venture to greet you, but now that the king and the princes have been captured by a demon, we have come to tell you that if you want to overcome him, you must fetch his master, the Heavenly Honoured Saviour of the Great Monad, to subdue him."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



When Monkey heard this, he set off on his somersault cloud and travelled to the Wonderful Crag Palace to meet the Heavenly Honoured Saviour of the Great Monad. Monkey told him how they had come upon a nine-headed lion and how the lion had carried off his master, the Tang Priest. Monkey then begged the Heavenly Honoured Saviour to go with him and subdue the lion.



As soon as the Heavenly Honoured Saviour heard this, he sent his immortal officers to the lion house to call out his lion keeper and question him. The lion keeper was sleeping so soundly that the officers had to push and shake him and drag him to the main hall.



When the Heavenly Honoured Saviour learned from the lion keeper that the nine-headed lion had escaped, he at once went with the lion keeper and Monkey by cloud straight to the Bamboo Mountain, where the deities of the mountain all knelt to greet him. "Has my master been harmed?" Monkey asked. "The evil spirits all went to sleep and didn't torture the Tang Priest anymore."

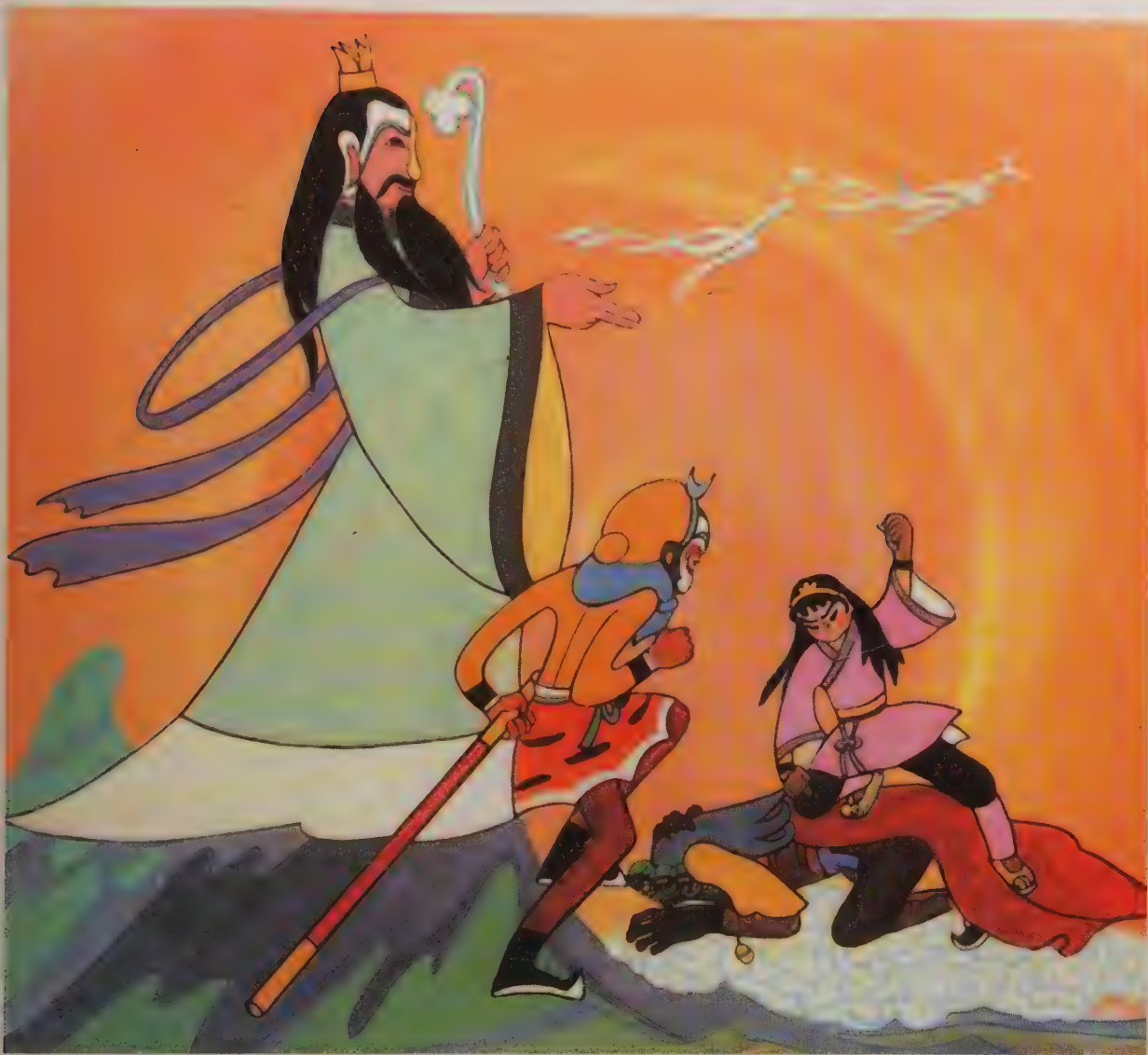


The Heavenly Honoured Saviour said, "Monkey, draw the demon outside for me to catch." Monkey sprang towards the mouth of the cave, brandishing his cudgel and shouting loudly, "Damned evil spirit, give back my people!"

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons



The old demon was awakened and furiously rose to his feet, shook his heads and opened his jaws to pick Monkey up. As Monkey turned and fled, the demon chased after him until they were outside the cave.



When the demon, pursuing Monkey, reached the cliff, he recognized his master. The monster gave up the struggle and lay down on the ground, kowtowing. The lion keeper ran over to him, took hold of his mane, and punched him hundreds of times, saying, "Why did you run away, beast? You got me into terrible trouble."

Yellow Lion Steals the Weapons

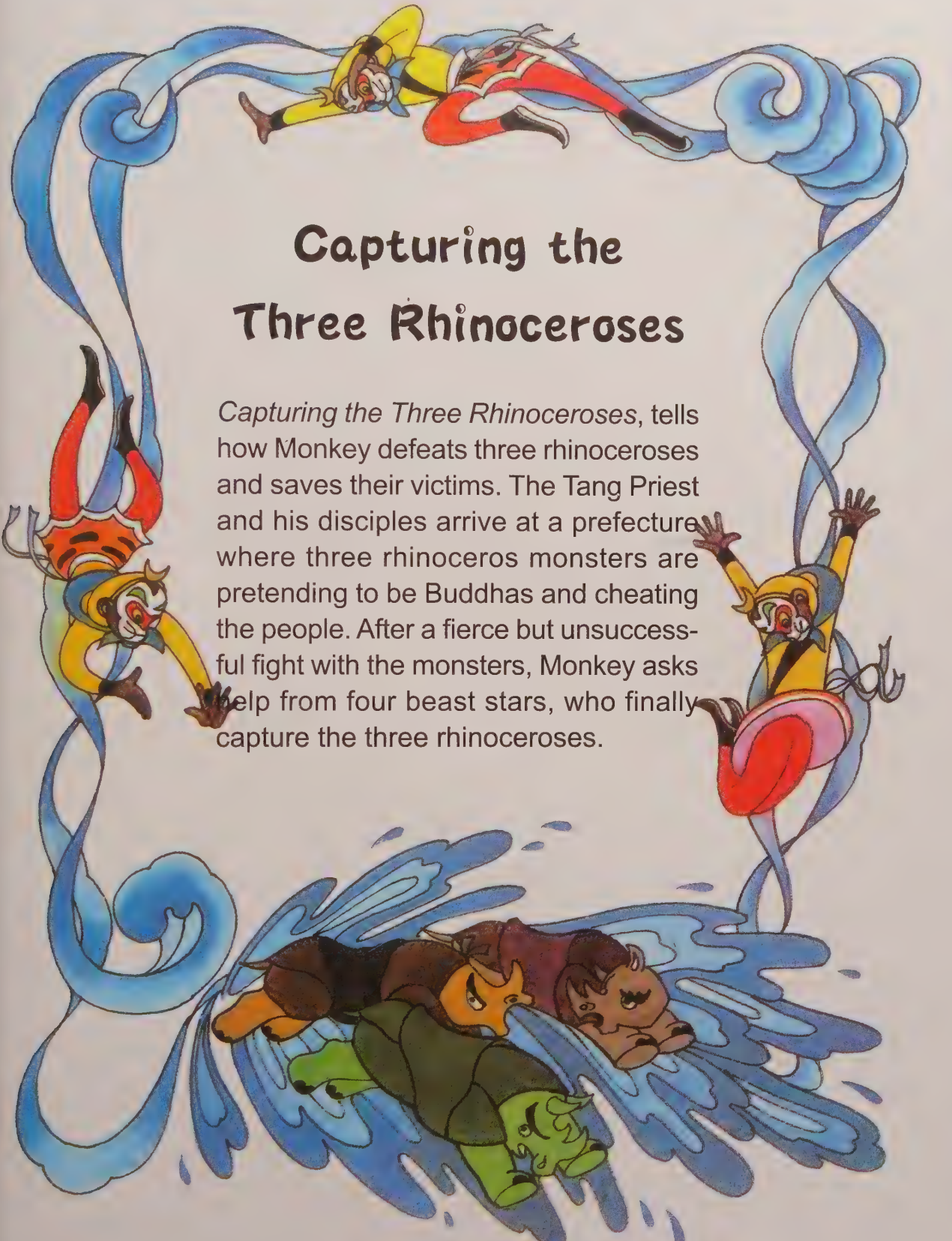


Monkey went into the cave to chase away the evil spirits and freed the king, the princes and the Tang Priest. The Heavenly Honoured Saviour mounted the nine-headed lion and shouted to it to go. They rose on coloured clouds and went straight back to the Wonderful Crag Palace. Everyone sent his thanks skywards.



When they returned to the city of Yuhua, the king issued an order for another great vegetarian banquet. By now the smiths had made the three weapons. That was cause for another celebration. Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand taught the young princes how to use the weapons, then the Tang Priest and his three disciples continued on their journey to the West.





Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses, tells how Monkey defeats three rhinoceroses and saves their victims. The Tang Priest and his disciples arrive at a prefecture where three rhinoceros monsters are pretending to be Buddhas and cheating the people. After a fierce but unsuccessful fight with the monsters, Monkey asks help from four beast stars, who finally capture the three rhinoceroses.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



The previous story told how the Tang Priest and his three disciples, Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand, left the city of Yuhua after passing on their martial skills to the three young princes. One day on their way they saw a monastery with the words Clouds of Compassion Monastery on the gate. "How about going in here to give the horse a rest and take a meal?" the Tang Priest suggested.



As the four were about to go inside, a monk came out and greeted them politely. "Where have you come from, Master?" "We are from the Tang Court in China, and we are on our way to seek the scriptures on the Vulture Peak. Now we want to give the horse a rest and take a meal here," replied the Tang Priest.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Then the monk led the Tang Priest and his disciples to meet the other monks in the main hall. After their greetings the Tang Priest inquired, "What is this place called and how far is it from here to the Vulture Peak?" The monks replied, "This is Jinping, one of the outer prefectures of India. Since we haven't been to the Vulture Peak, we don't know how far it is and would not like to make a wild guess."



A little later a vegetarian meal was provided, after which the Tang Priest wanted to be on his way. He was pressed to stay by the monks, who said, "Today is the thirteenth day of the first month and the lanterns will be tried out tonight. The Lantern Festival will last several days. Master, you must stay for a couple of days or so. Enjoy the Lantern Festival before you go on your way." The Tang Priest had no choice but to stay.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



As the bell and drum in the Buddha hall resounded to the skies, the faithful came in from the streets, bringing lanterns to present to the Buddha. The Tang Priest and the rest came out of the abbot's lodgings to see the lanterns. The following night the Tang Priest and the others wandered around the streets and did not go to bed until late at night.



On the fifteenth day of the first lunar month the Tang Priest said to the monks, "I made a vow to sweep pagodas, and for tonight's Lantern Festival I should like to ask the reverend abbot to open the doors of the pagoda to allow me to fulfil this vow." The monks opened the doors at once. The Tang Priest put his cassock over his shoulders and prayed to the Buddha, then he swept the ground floor with a broom.



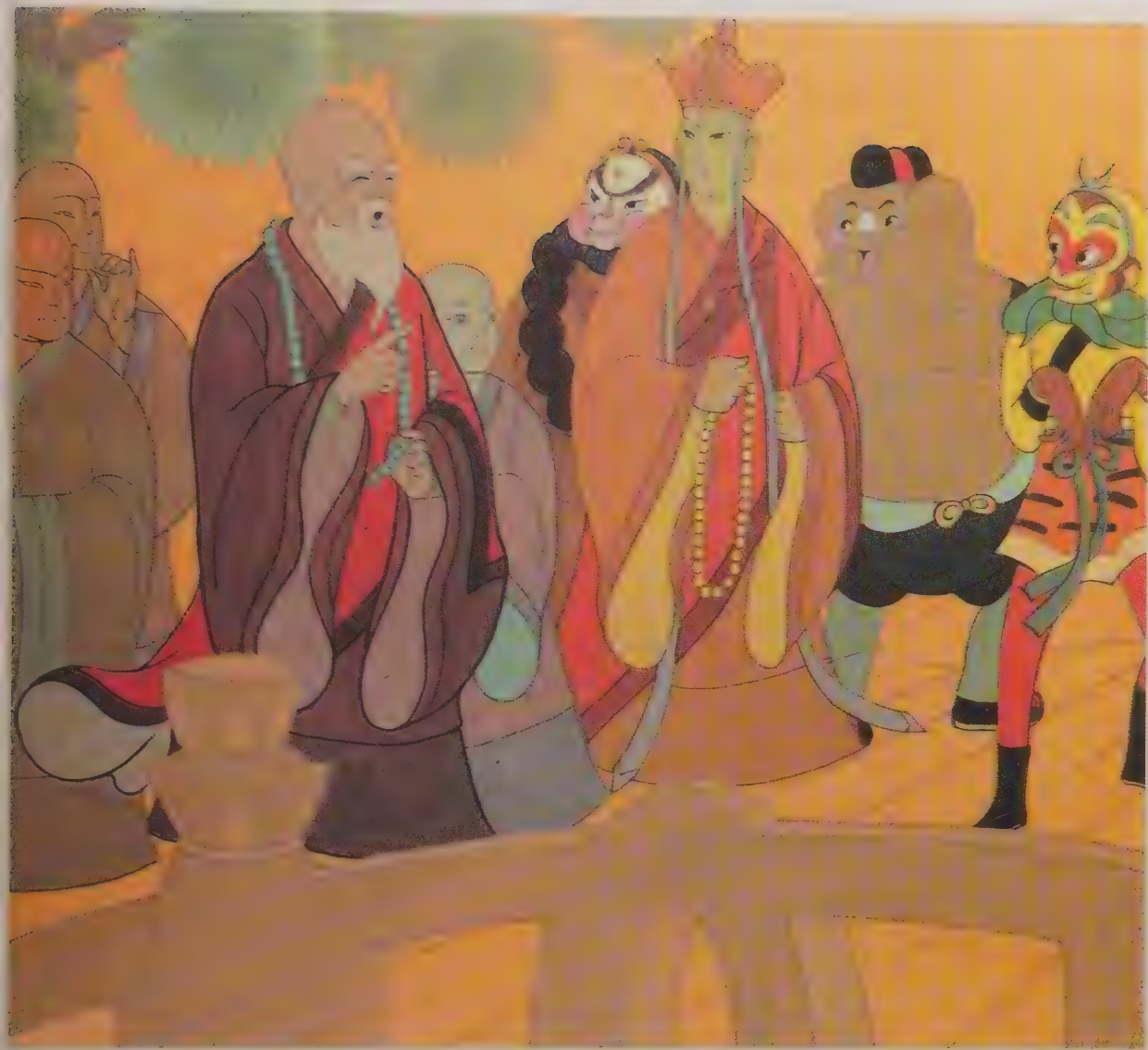
He swept the next story and the next and the next until he reached the top. Every story had a Buddha, and on each one he opened all the windows, swept the floor and enjoyed the splendid views. By the time he had finished sweeping and come down again, it was late and all the lamps had been lit.



It was now the night of the Lantern Festival. The Tang Priest went into the city with his three disciples and the monks of the monastery to see the lanterns. People were dancing, walking on stilts, riding elephants, pushing and crowding to east and to west as they looked all around.



When they reached the Bridge of Golden Lamps, they saw that the three golden lamps were each as big as a water jar and the gold-filigree cover was shaped like a two-story pagoda. Glazed ceramic tiles inside the lamps reflected light, and the oil was very fragrant. "What sort of oil do those lamps burn?" the Tang Priest asked. "Why does it smell so remarkably good?"



The senior monks replied, "This is fragrant refined butter oil. The three lamps hold fifteen hundred pounds of oil. In fact, this oil must not be used up until the Lord Buddhas appear; then the oil will all vanish and the lamps will go out."



As they were talking, they heard the wind howling in midair, sending everyone fleeing in terror. The monks said, "Let's go back, venerable master. It's the Lord Buddhas coming to see the lanterns." But the Tang Priest said, "If the Buddhas are honouring us with their presence on this festive occasion, it would be wonderful to be able to worship them."



A little later three shapes appeared in the wind. The Tang Priest was so excited that he ran to the top of the bridge and threw himself down in worship. Monkey rushed forward and said, "They're no good, Master. I'm sure they're evil."

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Before the words were even out of his mouth, the lamps all went out, and with a great whoosh the Tang Priest was swept up by the wind.



Pig and Friar Sand were thrown into such panic that they rushed all over the place, searching and calling for their master. "Brothers," called Monkey, "no use shouting here. He's been carried off by evil spirits. You two go back to the monastery with the monks and look after the horse and the baggage. I'm going after them while this wind's still blowing."



Monkey then shot into midair on his somersault cloud, picked up the direction of the wind and headed northeast in pursuit, continuing until the wind dropped at dawn. Ahead of him he could see a big mountain, steep and towering.



Monkey stopped his cloud and was about to go down when he saw four people driving three goats and shouting. Monkey's fiery eyes with their golden pupils flashed as he took a closer look and saw that they were the four Duty Gods in disguise.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Then Monkey sprang down and shouted, "Where are you skulking off to like that, trying to hide your faces?" When the four Duty Gods realized that he had seen through them, they at once turned back into their normal selves, kowtowed and said, "Great Sage, when your master was captured by the evil spirits, we realized that you would be coming after him, so we came here to meet you in case you did not know the mountains and forests here."



Monkey asked, "Are there evil spirits on this mountain?" "Yes," they replied, "this mountain is called the Green Dragon Mountain and there's a cave in it called the Dark Essence Cave where three evil spirits live. They are called King Cold Avoider, King Heat Avoider and King Dust Avoider. They've lived here for a thousand years and are fond of refined butter oil. At every Lantern Festival they pretend to be Buddhas to get the oil. Right now your master is suffering in the cave."

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Monkey left the four Duty Gods and went around the mountain looking for the cave. Soon he saw a cave with a pair of stone doors. A stone tablet beside the doors was inscribed Dark Essence Cave, Green Dragon Mountain.



Monkey stopped in front of the cave and called, "Give my master back at once, monster." With a great noise the doors burst wide open, and out rushed two bull-headed demons. They asked, "Who are you, yelling here like that?" Monkey replied, "Your chief demons carried my master of here. Give him back at once if you want me to spare your lives."



As soon as the junior demons heard this, they rushed inside to report. "Disaster, Your Majesties; there's a hairy-faced monk who looks like a thunder god outside." The three old demons were just about to strip the Tang Priest and wash him to have him fried in refined butter oil when they heard the report. They were alarmed and asked to have the Tang Priest brought over.



The three demons inquired, "Where are you from, monk? How many people do you have with you?" The Tang Priest replied, trembling with fear, "I have been sent by the Great Tang emperor in the East to worship the Lord Buddha and fetch the scriptures from the Thunder Monastery in India. I have three disciples — Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand."

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



The demons all exclaimed in horror and the demon kings said, "Little ones, lock the Tang Priest in iron chains at the back. When we've caught his three disciples, we'll eat them together." They then mustered a force of armed yak, went outside and shouted, "Who dares come here shouting?"



Monkey did not answer but went up to them, swinging his iron cudgel. The three old demons raised their weapons to meet the blow. With clashes and lunges three fought against one as each showed his skill with blocks and parries. They fought from dawn till almost nightfall with no one winning.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Then King Dust Avider sprang forward, waving a flag, whereupon the crowd of cattle-headed demons swarmed around Monkey, encircling him and swinging wildly at him with their weapons.



Seeing that things were going badly, Monkey thought he had better go back to consult with Pig and Friar Sand, so he set off on his somersault cloud and flew back to the Clouds of Compassion Monastery.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Pig and Friar Sand were waiting anxiously for him. Seeing Monkey, they came forward to greet him. Monkey told them, "Our master was carried off by three demons from the Green Dragon Mountain. I fought with them all day long, but then it got late and I was afraid I couldn't beat them, so I came back. Let's go there together tomorrow."



After supper Friar Sand said, "It'll be terrible if those demons kill our master. We'd better go there right now and make such a row that they can't do anything." When Pig heard this, he braced himself and said, "Friar Sand's right. Let's go right now." Accepting their advice, Monkey asked the monks of the monastery to look after the baggage and the horse.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Monkey and his two brother disciples were soon bringing their cloud down at the entrance to the Dark Essence Cave. Pig was just about to smash the doors in when Monkey said, "Wait a moment. I'll go in and have a look first." Then he called "Change", turned into an insect and flew in.



Monkey flew into the main hall and saw some cattle demons fast asleep. Then he went to the back of the hall where he heard sobs. He found the Tang Priest tied to a pillar, weeping.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



He went up to his master and said gently, "Master, I'm here to rescue you." Then he untied the rope and led his master to the front of the cave.



On the way they bumped into junior devils on sentry duty. Without a word, Monkey pulled out his cudgel and struck the devils. They ran away frightened, shouting, "Your Majesties, disaster! The hairy-faced monk's got inside!"

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



The moment the three demons heard this, they ordered, "Catch them! Catch them!" This gave the Tang Priest such a fright that his hands and legs were paralysed. Monkey had to abandon him. He stormed forward and rushed straight out.



The demons ordered the doors locked firmly. Pig showed off his magic powers by smashing the stone doors to smithereens with a blow from his rake, then he shouted at the top of his voice, "Thieving, oil-stealing monsters! Send my master out right now!"

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



The three demon kings, in a great fury, led their troops into battle. Wasting no more words, they started fighting.



When the three monks and three monsters had been fighting for a long time without either side coming out on top, King Cold Avider shouted, "Come on, little ones!" The monsters all charged Pig and Friar Sand, quickly tripping them up and knocking them to the ground.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Realizing that he was in a difficult position, Monkey thought he'd better go up to Heaven to find out more about the monsters, then he could catch them. So by somersault cloud Monkey escaped to the Southern Gate of Heaven.



Monkey was soon outside the gate, where the Great White Planet and several other heavenly officials were waiting. He told them why he had come. The Great White Planet explained, "They are three rhinoceros spirits. If you want to catch them, you must ask the help of the four wooden beast stars."

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Monkey said good-bye to the Great White Planet and went straight to the four beast stars — Wooden Lesser Dragon of the Horn, Wooden Unicorn of the Dipper, Wooden Wolf of the Strider and Wooden Hyena of the Well. As soon as he saw them, Monkey explained why he had come. The four beast stars at once left the Dipper and Bull Palace and followed Monkey to the Green Dragon Mountain.



The four beast stars said, "You challenge them to battle and lure them out, then we'll come up behind you and get them." Monkey went up to the cave and shouted, "Oil-stealing monsters, give my master back!"

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



The three demons and their troops rushed out of the cave, shouting at Monkey, "Back again, are you? Not afraid of another beating?" Then all of them came up and surrounded Monkey.



The four beast stars, waiting to one side, swung their weapons and shouted, "Don't move, vile creatures!" The three demon kings, alarmed at the sight of the four beast stars, said, "This is terrible! He's found people who can beat us. Run for our lives!"

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Instantly the junior devils all turned into yak, water-buffalo and ox spirits, running all over the mountain. The three demon kings also turned back into their true selves and galloped off to the northeast, followed by Monkey leading Wooden Hyena of the Well and Wooden Lesser Dragon of the Horn.



Wooden Unicorn of the Dipper and Wooden Wolf of the Strider were mopping up all the cattle spirits in the hollows, summits and valleys of the mountain. They then entered the Dark Essence Cave to free the Tang Priest, Pig and Friar Sand.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Recognizing the two stars, Friar Sand, together with his master, bowed to them in thanks. The two stars said, "The Great Sage has gone after the three old demons with Wooden Hyena of the Well and Wooden Lesser Dragon of the Horn. You two escort your master back to the monastery to rest while we head northeast to join the chase."



Pig and Friar Sand collected some firewood and lit a fire, burning the whole cave to ashes. Then they took their master back to the Clouds of Compassion Monastery.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Wooden Unicorn of the Dipper and Wooden Wolf of the Strider were riding their clouds northeast in pursuit of the demons when they lost sight of them in midair. On reaching the Western Sea they saw Monkey on top of the sea, shouting.



Bringing their clouds down, they asked, "Where have the monsters gone?" Monkey told them that the three demons had plunged into the sea and the two stars had followed close behind. Then Monkey said, "Now you're here, you can block them on the shore while I look for them."

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



So, swinging his cudgel and reciting a spell, he plunged deep into the waves where the three monsters were locked in a life-and-death struggle with Wooden Hyena of the Well and Wooden Lesser Dragon of the Horn. "Monkey's here!" he shouted.



The demons were barely holding their own against the two stars, so when they heard Monkey's great yell, they fled for their lives into the middle of the sea, parting the waters with their horns.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



A yaksha who was on guard patrol rushed back to the crystal palace to report to the dragon king. When the old dragon king heard his report, he said to Prince Mo'ang, "Muster our water forces at once. I'm sure it must be the three rhinoceroses, Cold Avoider, Heat Avoider and Dust Avoider, who've provoked the Monkey King."



Mo'ang hastened to muster his troops and a moment later a fully armed force of prawn and crab soldiers charged out of the crystal palace, shouting battle cries to stop the rhinoceros spirits. Unable to advance any farther, the rhinoceroses tried to make a hasty escape.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



But Dust Avoider was surrounded by the prawn and crab soldiers and there was no way to escape. Delighted, Monkey called out, "Stop! Stop! Take him alive! Don't kill him!"



When Mo'ang heard this, he rushed forward, knocked Dust Avoider to the ground, put an iron hook through his snout and tied all his hoofs together. Then an order came from the old dragon king to divide his forces in two to help the star officers capture the other two monsters.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



As the young dragon prince led his men forward, Wooden Hyena of the Well reverted to his real form to hold Cold Avider down and started taking bites out of him. Mo'ang shouted, "Well, don't kill him! The Great Sage Monkey wants him alive." It was too late. Cold Avider was already dead.



Just then they saw that Heat Avoider was being driven back towards them by Wooden Lesser Dragon of the Horn. He ran straight into Wooden Hyena of the Well, and Mo'ang ordered his prawn and crab soldiers to encircle the monster. The monster pleaded, "Spare me! Spare me!"

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Wooden Hyena of the Well sprang forward, grabbed the monster by the ear, seized his sword, and shouted, "I won't kill you. I'll let the Great Sage deal with you."



Taking leave of the dragon king, Monkey and the four beast stars went by cloud straight back to Jinping Prefecture, taking the two rhinoceroses with them.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Monkey called out as he stood in midair above Jinping Prefecture, "Honourable Prefect, officials and civilians of Jinping, you have had to make offerings of golden lamps every year to these rhinoceros monsters pretending to be Buddhas come down to earth. We've captured them now."



Then the stars pushed the rhinoceroses down. People inside and outside the walled city crowded into the prefectural court to see the rhinoceroses. As soon as they heard about it, the monks of the Clouds of Compassion Monastery carried the Tang Priest into the court in a sedan chair and let people express their thanks to him and his disciples.

Capturing the Three Rhinoceroses



Monkey told how the four star officers had captured the monsters and brought them there. Hearing his story, Pig lost his temper, pulled out a knife and wanted to behead the rhinoceroses. Monkey stopped him, saying, "Leave them alive! Since they admitted their guilt, they can be taken back to the Dipper and Bull Palace by the four beast stars to do hard labour and see how they behave."



After bowing, the four beast stars, escorting the two rhinoceroses, took their leave and rose on auspicious clouds to return to the Dipper and Bull Palace. Then the Tang Priest and his disciples packed their things and went on their way to the West.

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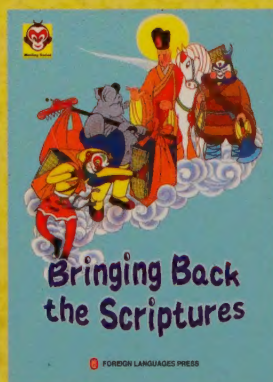
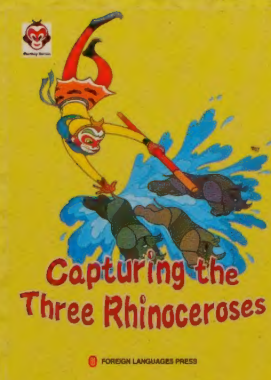
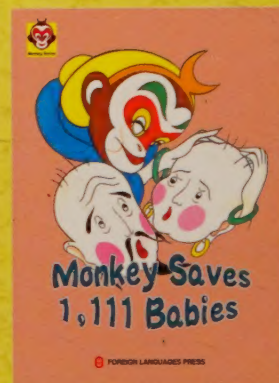
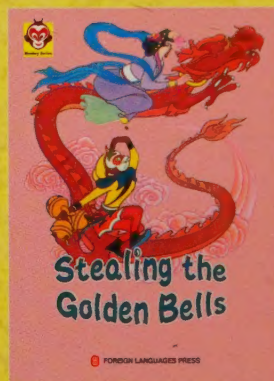
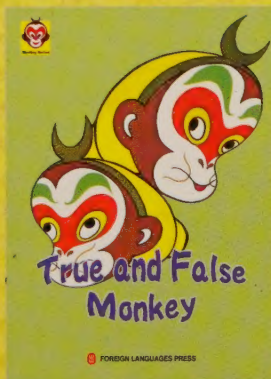
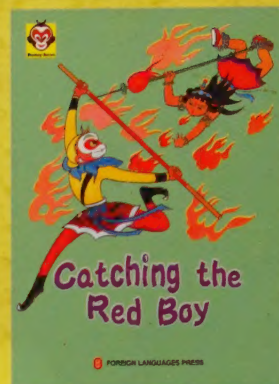
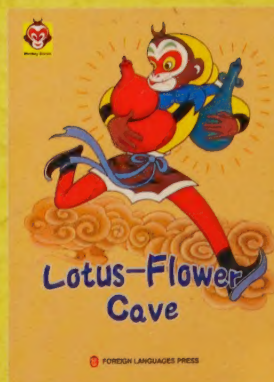
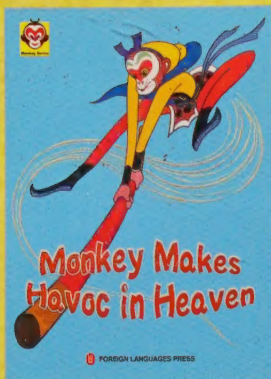
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